

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:407
ANSWERED ON:10.04.2003
QUALITY OF PETROL AND DIESEL
CHARAN DAS MAHANT

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Public Sector oil companies have undertaken any measures to improve the quality of Petrol and Diesel in the past few years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the total investments made by the oil companies to improve quality of Petrol and Diesel in the past three years;
- (d) whether the improved quality of Petrol and Diesel is not available in cities and towns other than metropolitan cities; and
- (e) if so, the reasons therefore?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK)

(a) to (e): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.407 B' CHARAN DAS MAHANT TO BE ANSWERED ON 10TH APRIL, 2003 REGARDING QUALITY OF PETROL AND DIESEL

(a) & (b): The measures taken by the public sector oil companies to improve the quality of petrol and diesel in the past few years, inter alia, include:

- (i) phasing out of lead from petrol;
- (ii) reducing sulphur content in petrol and diesel;
- (iii) increasing the octane number of petrol;
- (iv) increasing the cetane number of diesel; and
- (v) introducing benzene content limit in petrol.

(c): The investments made by the oil companies to improve the quality of petrol and diesel have been of the order of Rs. 10,000 crore including around Rs. 2,430 crore during the last three years.

(d) & (e): The quality improvements stated in reply to part (a) & (b) above apply to petrol and diesel available throughout the country. Further, petrol and diesel with ultra low sulphur content (0.05%) is available in four metropolitan cities and Hyderabad/Secundarabad. From 01-04-2003, this fuel has also been introduced in Bangalore, Ahmedabad, Agra, Pune, Kanpur and Surat.